

Official Is Decorated; Pre-Race Party Held

By DAISY CLELAND

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Washington society was divided last evening between many events but at one party they drank a toast to a cabinet member receiving an award and at another they toasted a hopeful—a horse.

A party was given at the Brazilian Embassy to celebrate a decoration ceremony. The United States Secretary of the Air Force, James H. Douglas, Jr., was awarded the Order of Aeronautical Merit of Brazil.

The other spot for gay embassy entertaining was at the Irish embassy where there was a good bit of cheer pouring forth in the spirit of a horse race.

Irish Ambassador and Mrs. Hearne were the hosts at the latter event which honored

all the participants (two legged) in the International race today. However, with the favorite being Ballymoss, the Irish entry, there was some wearing of the green and a few prayers promised.

The Brazilian party had to make a quick switch for a host. Originally the schedule called for Brazilian Air Minister and Mme. Mello to be hosts at the party in honor of Secretary and Mrs. Douglas. However, internal politics called Minister Mello home, and according to one guest, this trip was "job security."

Staying on for the event was Mme. Mello, who received with Ambassador and Mme. Peixoto and the guests of honor. The guests proved the popularity of the Mellos, who were formerly here at the embassy when he was the Air Attache. They came from near and far with warm welcomes.

Receiving from the Ambassador the grade of Grand Officer of the award, which is the second highest given, Secretary Douglas heard himself extolled for the "outstanding services he has given to Brazil as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Undersecretary of the Air Force, Secretary of the Air Force, and his service during World War I and World War II."

Guests streamed into the embassy from the appointed hour of 7 p.m. on. Dress for the party was "black tie." A buffet supper was followed by dancing to Erwin Howard Devron and his orchestra.

Guests at Party

Among those there were Col. and Mrs. M. Robert Guggenheim, she in beautiful brocade; Air Force Chief of Staff and Mrs. Thomas White, the handsome Rafael Oreamunos, saying that he had just returned from Mexico; Mr. and Mrs. Kirby Patterson and Brig. Gen. and Mrs. William Skaer.

Assistant Secretary of Defense and Mrs. Murray Snyder were there briefly on their way to "family night" at their daughter's school, and others were Assistant Air Force Secretary and Mrs. David Smith, former Ambassador and Mrs. Myron Cowen (she in a smart dress of toast lace) with Mrs. Sherlock Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Akers and Mr. and Mrs. Meade Patrick.

Mrs. Robert Allen Dyer was there with her daughter Dorothy and others were Mr. and Mrs. Roy St. Lewis with their guests, Mr. and Mrs. Max Pray and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Warton of Chicago.

Mr. Warton is the racing commissioner of Illinois and here for the International race today. Incidentally, the Wartons and Secretary and Mrs. Douglas had a family chat since the Warton daughter is married to the Secretary's nephew, Bill Douglas.

Standing by as an honor guard for the Secretary when he was presented his award were Air Force Inspector General, Lt. Gen. Elmer Rogers; Air Force Deputy Chief, Lt. Gen. Dean Strothers; Director, National Security Agency, Lt. Gen. John Samford, and Deputy Director of the CIA, Gen. C. Pearre Cullen.

Prince Aly Attends

One big moment at the Hearnes' party was the arrival of Prince Aly Khan, who as one guest put it, "made all the ladies twitter." Another in the limelight, but definitely enjoying an Irish evening, was Russian Ambassador Menshikov.

Incidentally, the Aly Khan, took his life in his hands and quipped to an Irish guest, "take a long shot and bet on a Russian horse."

On hand, but not in earshot for that remark, was the owner of the great Irish horse, Mr. John McShain of build-

ing fame, and Mrs. McShain. And just keeping it all in the good old Irish club, the trainer of the horse happens to be a gentleman by the name of Vincent O'Brien, who was also there.

Mr. McShain said that Mr. and Mrs. John B. Kelly (parents of Princess Grace) were bringing guests to the race.

The charm of the hosts provided a gay party and a lavish buffet supper with all the guests seated at small tables. Protocol took a back seat to the warmth and ease of Ambassador and Mrs. Hearne as all wished them well today.



RACING FANS—Prince Aly Khan (left) and Irish Ambassador John J. Hearne have a confab at the Irish Embassy where the envoy was host yesterday at a cocktail party on the eve of the International Race. The Prince, who heads Pakistan's delegation to the United Nations, is here for the event.—Star Staff Photo by Rosemary.

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HONORED BY BRAZIL—Secretary of the Air Force James H. Douglas, jr. (left), receives Brazil's "Order of Aeronautical Merit" from Brazilian Ambassador Peixoto while Mrs. Douglas looks on. The award was made at a reception last night at the Embassy.—Star Staff Photo.